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Charlotte A. Randolph, Parish President

November 17, 2011

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Public Record

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

FILE FEE WAIVED

RE: Union Pacific Railroad Company
Abandonment in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana,
STB Docket Nos. AB-318 (Sub-No. 7X) and
AB-33 (Sub-No. 277X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

This request is filed on behalf of Lafourche Parish Government which is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, which is hereinafter referred to as 'proponent'.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Raceland and Jay (Milepost 1.7 near Raceland and Milepost 14.2, near Jay, a distance of 12.5 miles), located in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

A. Public Use Condition

Proponent requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except of public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. In addition, the corridor provides important wildlife habitat and greenspace and its preservation as a recreational trail is consistent with that end. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time because we are in the process of information and completing a trail plan.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have

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Joseph "Joe" Fertitta	District 4	Daniel Lorraine	District 9

considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Proponent also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. §1152.29, Lafourche Parish Government is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) and operated by Louisiana Delta Railroad, Inc. (LDRR). The property, known as "a Portion of the Lockport Branch" extends from railroad Milepost 1.7 near Raceland and Milepost 14.2, near Jay, a distance of 12.5 miles, located in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket Nos. AB-318 (Sub-No. 7X) and AB-33 (Sub-No. 277X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

Lafourche Parish Government acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Union Pacific Railroad Company, 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, Illinois 60606-1718, Attn: Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, first class, on ~~October 27, 2011~~.

November 17, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte A. Randolph
Parish President

On behalf of Lafourche Parish Government

CAR/gc

Attachment 1



